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Michael K. Mutter BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH LLP 811 Gatehouse Road Suite 100 East P.O. Box 747 Falls Church, VA 2040-0747

Dear Mr. Tanghal:

This is in response to your communication received 25 August 2006 requesting status of the U.S. national stage application 10/574,692 filed April 5, 2006. As of date, the U.S. Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) presently has a 10-12 month backlog in processing filed U.S. national stage applications.

A request was forwarded to a manger in DO/EO/US to expedite the processing of the above referenced application.

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MSR/MR:mr